

Advisory Committee
March 5, 2014
Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall

Marjorie Freiman called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present included Robert Capozzi, Mary Crown, Becky Epstein, Tom Frisardi, Ann Marie Gross, John Hussey, Lucy Kapples, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport, Deb Robi, Mason Smith and Scott Tarbox.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak at this time.

Presentations on Warrant Articles (Board of Selectmen)

Article 6- Town Clerk's salary

Terri Tsagaris, Barbara Searle, David Murphy, and Don McCauley of the Board of Selectmen and Hans Larsen, Executive Director provided the update. This article seeks approval for an increase of the Town Clerk's salary. The BOS are recommending a 2% increase to \$81,963. This increase is in line with other Series 50 employees of the Town for FY15.

Article 18 – 900 Worcester Street

This Article seeks approval for funding an additional year of property taxes and extending of the purchase and sale agreement for one more year while the Archdiocese waits for a decision from the Vatican on the property. The BOS are requesting an additional \$47,000 from Free Cash to cover the taxes for one year (\$27,000) and any additional legal fees (\$20,000).

STM Article 3 – Bylaw Amendment

This Article seeks to amend the Town Bylaws Article 19, BOS, Section 19.19, Licensing Board, by adding a provision to grant licenses for the sale of wine and malt beverages, not to be drunk on the premises as authorized in C.14 of the Acts of 2014. The licenses shall be limited to not more than 3 food stores and not more than 3 specialty food stores. The amendment would mean that another future change in the Bylaw would be required should the Town wish to expand the class of retail establishments eligible for a license.

Amendment to Article 15 (Fuller Brook)

This Article seeks approval for an appropriation of \$5,460,205 for the restoration of Fuller Brook Park. Phase 4 of the preservation project will be implemented after approval. The CPC has approved \$4,500,000 from Community Preservation Act Funds and the balance of \$960,205 will be raised by borrowing within the levy. CPC recently increased their allocation of funds for Phase 4 project construction from \$3.6 million to \$4.5 million.

Discussion followed regarding the salary and insurance costs for the project manager. These expenses are included in the project's Phase 4 budget. If DPW retains the professional upon completion of this project, they will be responsible for paying the salary and insurance benefits required of all new hires.

Budget Issues and Override Discussion with Selectmen

The BOS reviewed their recent joint meeting with the School Committee. Many Advisory Committee members attended the BOS meeting earlier this week. Consensus of the BOS was to request an override of \$3.5 million instead of asking for a \$5.0 million, two-year override. There are many unknowns (including unsettled labor contracts) and not enough time for the BOS or Advisory to fully vet FY16 budget scenarios. The following departments are over guideline by these amounts: Schools, \$2,877,000; BOS, \$290,000; DPW, \$140,000; PBC, \$92,000; Library, \$82,000; Recreation, \$12,000; and NRC, \$7,000 for a total of \$3,500,000. All departments over the budget guideline have been contacted to submit their "Gap Lists" should the override vote fail.

Presentation on Article 37 – Sustainable Energy Committee

Ellen Korpi and Katy Gibson of the SEC gave the presentation. This Article asks Town Meeting to adopt a goal to reduce the Town's annual greenhouse gas emissions to 25% below 2007 levels by 2020. This would include emissions from residential, municipal, collegiate, and business entities. Through 2012, the Sustainable Energy Committee estimated the Town achieved a reduction of 11.6%. The SEC is proposing the new goal of 25% which is similar to neighboring towns of Newton and Brookline. The State of Massachusetts has established a target goal of 80% by 2050.

Article 10 – Electric Program

This Article seeks appropriation of revenues from rate payers and other sources, as well as cash on hand as of June 30, 2014, for payment of the MLP operating and capital expenditures in FY15.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on Article 10. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 10 by a show of hands, 13 to 0.

Article 11 – Water Program

This Article seeks appropriation of the Water Enterprise Fund's FY15 receipts and cash on hand as of June 30, 2014, for the payment of the Water Division operating and capital expenditures in FY15, provided that the total amount of expenditures in FY15 does not exceed \$8,131,428.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on Article 11. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 11 by a show of hands, 13 to 0.

Article 12 – Sewer Program

This Article seeks appropriation of the Sewer Enterprise Fund's FY15 receipts and cash on hand as of June 30, 2014, for payment of the Sewer Division operating and capital expenditures in FY15, provided that the total amount of expenditures in FY15 does not exceed \$9,103,193.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on Article 12. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 12 by a show of hands, 13 to 0.

Article 18 – 900 Worcester Street

This Article will approve the amount of \$47,000 to cover the additional property taxes of \$27,000 and appropriate an additional \$20,000 to cover legal fees for one more year. The project is pending Vatican decision on the appeal. The Town will have to re-evaluate whether to continue forward with the project if a decision is not made by this time next year.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on Article 18. Tom Frisardi seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 18 by a show of hands, 13 to 0.

Article 37 – Sustainable Energy Committee

This Article seeks approval to adopt a goal to reduce the Town's annual greenhouse emissions to 25% below 2007 levels by 2020. This would include emissions from households, municipal entities, colleges and businesses.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on Article 37. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 37 by a show of hands, 13 to 0.

Article 6 – Town Clerk Salary

This Article seeks approval for an increase of the Town Clerk's salary. The BOS are recommending a 2% increase to \$81,963.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on Article 6. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 6 by a show of hands, 13 to 0.

Advisory Report Progress

Article 21 has been removed from the Warrant. The BOS will meet on Friday, March 7th to vote on any remaining Articles. Ann Rappaport reported the report was in good shape for the Annual Town Meeting. Some information is still needed on the Special Town Meeting Articles. The report copies will be delivered to Town Hall by the printer on March 20th. On Friday, March 21st at 8:30am, Advisory Committee members will assemble the report in binders and mail a copy to each Town Meeting Member. This schedule allows Town Meeting members to have two weekends to review the Advisory Report as requested by the Moderator.

Approval of Minutes

Lucy Kapples made a motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2014. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Lucy Kapples made a motion to approve the minutes of March 1, 2014. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Liaison Reports

The Chair asked for liaison reports and various members of the Advisory Committee provided their reports.

Calendar Review

Town Affairs Night will be held at the Wellesley Club on March 17th.

Advisory will meet on Saturday, March 8th at 8:00 a.m. at the Police Department. They will also meet Wednesday, March 12th at 7:30 p.m. in the Juliani Room of Town Hall.

New Business/Old Business

There was none.

Ms. Freiman adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m. with no objections.